

Filed for intro on 01/28/2002

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 524  
By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Professor David L. Acey  
upon his receipt of the 2002 Arthur S. Holman  
Lifetime Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their professional and personal efforts have distinguished themselves as scholars and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Professor David L. Acey of Memphis, who has been selected to receive the 2002 Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis Black Student Association's Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1991 to bring special recognition to noted Memphians whose lives exemplify outstanding dedication to the Memphis community and who are a constant reminder to today's students that hard work and dedication are the true keys to success; and

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WHEREAS, the award's recipients serve as true role models, black community leaders who are travelling toward their goals and dreams regardless of the starting point of their journeys; and

WHEREAS, David L. Acey is a most fitting recipient of this distinguished honor; he fully embodies the ideals that the award seeks to honor; and

WHEREAS, an Assistant Professor of African American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication at the University of Memphis, he has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and students alike for the unsurpassed quality of his work and his dedication to excellence in education; from 1979 until 1985, he served as Director of African American Studies at the University, and he designed much of the University's Afrocentric curriculum; and

WHEREAS, this revered Tennessean has devoted much of his professional life to the worthy cause of improving the status of African Americans in higher education; he has sought to develop strategies that encourage African American participation in public life and improve inter-group communication and race relations from a multi-cultural perspective; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable contributor to his profession and society as a whole, he is active in the Southern Speech Association, National Speech Association, National Council of African American Studies, National Alliance of Black Education, Tennessee Education Association, TEA Minority Affairs Committee, National Education Association, Tennesseans for Justice in Higher Education, National Education Association Black Caucus, and the International Cultural Awareness Festival; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his academic work, Professor Acey still finds time to devote his remarkable talents to such notable causes as the NAACP, The Urban League, P.U.S.H., Sister City International, Memphis Police Civilian Review Board, Greater Memphis Arts Council, Tennessee Arts Commission, WKNO Foundation, and the Federal Correction Institute and Justice Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, he has additionally lent his vast wisdom and expertise to assist in the development of numerous documentaries, events, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, for his professional and personal excellence, David L. Lacey has received countless honors and awards; just a few examples include the Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award, World Community Award, USPS Diversity Award, City of Memphis Outstanding Citizen and Humanitarian Award, WLOK Public Service Award, Tennessee Excellence in Higher Education Award, and the Gold Community Service Recognition Award; and

WHEREAS, he was selected by *Downtown Magazine* as one of the “Pioneers of the Decade”; and

WHEREAS, Professor Acey is known throughout the greater Memphis area for founding “Africa in April,” a celebration that highlights an African country and seeks to further knowledge within the community of that country’s culture and contributions to the world; he continues to serve as Executive Director of the annual event, which has garnered widespread fame and has helped to link and connect the University with the larger community and cultural groups with each other; and

WHEREAS, focusing on the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, this year’s celebration will be the sixteenth such event and provides an enduring symbol of Professor Acey’s legacy; and

WHEREAS, David L. Acey epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Yvonne; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to furthering family and community values of the highest merit, he is the loving father of a son, David L. Acey, II, and the proud grandfather of two, David L. Acey, III, and Devin Acey; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Professor Acey for his remarkable dedication to his students and to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Professor David L. Acey upon his much deserved receipt of the 2002 Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award on February 1, 2002, and join with him in celebrating this special day as part of the opening ceremony of Black History Month at the University of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute him for his professional excellence, his dedication to improving the status of African Americans in higher education and his unsurpassed devotion to the welfare of his fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express to Professor Acey our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.